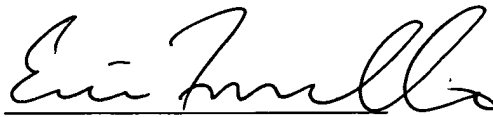


REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are before the Examiner. Applicants have amended the claims to delete multiple dependencies to reduce the filing fee. An early examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 28, 2004



Eric J. Franklin
Registration No. 37,134
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-4936
Facsimile: (202) 344-8300